

25th August 1925]

[*Note*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ In view of the fact that we had only half an hour yesterday for starred questions, may I request you to extend the time by another half hour to-day ? ”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ I do not think I should do it. We have got many resolutions on the agenda to-day.”

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Sir, since it is usual that after question time we can ask for general information, may I ask whether the Council will close to-morrow evening or whether it will continue day after to-morrow ? ”

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Everything depends on the promptness of this hon. House. Beyond the supplementary demands and the Village Officers Bill there is no other business, and I am told there is also the postponed discussion regarding the Cotton Rules.”

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Therefore I want to know whether all those supplementary demands are so urgent that they should be finished in this meeting. Or supposing that the Village Officers Bill may take some time, the supplementary demands may be postponed to some other day. We have to make arrangements beforehand, especially the Members coming from mufassal, regarding reservation of seats and so on. We therefore want to know definitely whether the Council will be adjourned to-morrow or not.”

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ It is impossible for me to say anything definitely now. I think it is more easy for my hon. Friend to answer the question if he can ascertain from his hon. Colleagues as to what time the discussion is likely to take.”

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ That means that the hon. Members on the first bench are not at all taking much time in talking.”

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ The hon. Members of the first bench are limited in number in comparison (laughter) with those on the other benches.”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ I am afraid it will be hard on the village officers to ask that the Village Officers Bill should be postponed.”
(Cries of ‘ No. no ’)

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ The Village Officers Bill may probably take some time and I said that the supplementary demands might be postponed. I did not say that the Bill should be postponed.”

III

MOTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

SCHEME FOR COLONIZING THE ANDAMANS WITH MAPPILLAS—*cont.*

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ Sir, I believe it is possible and it is also desirable to discuss this resolution without importing into it any of the incidents connected with the recent Mappilla rebellion. One of my hon. Friends who preceded me referred to certain incidents in connexion with this rebellion and said that the ancient Nayars were courageous men and the present Nayars were cowards. My Friend may be right or he may be

wrong, but I do not wish to answer his criticism on this point. He referred also to certain other incidents connected with the rebellion. I wish to avoid carefully all incidents connected with the recent Mappilla rebellion in discussing this particular resolution before the House."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"As a matter of personal explanation, Sir, I am very sorry that my remarks yesterday have made my hon. Friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar think that I used words which suggest that the present-day Nayars are cowards. I never meant anything like that. The Nayars are a very chivalrous race and famous for their warlike tendencies in former days. Of course, they are as much un-warlike as any of us nowadays on account of economic and other general causes. I wanted to lay stress on the fact that in times of panic even brave people are sometimes influenced by a greater amount of fear than other people."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I have no quarrel whatever with my hon. Friend even if he made the statement unconditionally. However, as I said, I have no wish to enter into those incidents. With reference to sending these Mappilla women, wives of the convicts, to the Andamans, I have no doubt whatever that the intention and motive of the Government are very good. Apparently, the object of the Government is to send those women to the Andamans and thus enable their husbands, the convicts there, to lead comparatively moral lives; but the question is whether in the step that the Government are taking, they will really be able to accomplish that object. If the Government think that the particular course which they have chalked out is beneficial to them and is in the interests of the community, I can very well understand Government persisting in that course. In this particular case, the question is whether, after all, the objections of the community are so very unreasonable as to make the Government persist in such a course. The climatic conditions of the islands—my Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib who moved this resolution has already referred to this, supporting his statement with extracts from Sir Alexander Cardew's report—are very bad. They are said to be highly malarial. My Friend the hon. the Home Member in answer to that stated that no doubt they were highly malarial in 1919 when Sir Alexander Cardew submitted his report on the conditions then existing, but that the conditions have thoroughly changed since then. My Friend went on to observe that the remarks that the committee made with reference to the Andamans were a mistake, or were founded upon some mistake, that the climate of Malabar is analogous to the climate of the Andamans and that people from Malabar will find it very agreeable to settle in the Andamans; though it was possible that the people of the Central Provinces or the Punjab or other provinces may find the climate of the Andamans not very good. These were the remarks which my Friend the hon. the Home Member made in answer to the observations of my Friend, Mr. Uppi Sahib. I do not know, Sir, how the climatic conditions in the Andamans changed so very greatly within the last six years. I may assure the hon. the Home Member, as one coming from Malabar, that the climate of Malabar though it has a heavy rainfall as have the Andaman islands is not at all malarial. I believe that Malabar is one of the healthiest spots on the face of the earth and I do not know whether my Friend the hon. the Home Member or any Member of this House will be prepared to say not only that the Andamans is one of the healthiest parts in the world and that it has a healthy climate, but also

25th August 1925] [Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar]

that the climatic conditions in the Andamans have changed so greatly within the last six years that the islands which were once highly malarial have now become healthy. Therefore, Sir, it seems to me that the arguments urged by my hon. Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib, the Mover of this resolution, with reference to the climatic conditions in the Andamans, are sound.

"Then, with reference to the moral atmosphere, I believe the objections are very much greater. As a matter of fact, we know from the report published by the Cardew Committee that the number of women in the islands in 1918 was one for every six men and the report went on to say that the moral atmosphere was very bad and that no respectable or decent man, even if he was a convict, would be willing, after his release, to take his wife and children there. Those objections are in force even to-day. My hon. Friend stated that he himself saw and spoke to some of the Mappilla prisoners who had recently been brought from the Andamans, that they said the climate there was not bad and that they would like to take their wives. I may say, Sir, that these women are young, less than 25 years. The Mappillas themselves are young and healthy, and it is quite natural that they are willing to take their young wives to the Andamans. But the question for the Government to consider, especially when the community affected is so very greatly opposed to this measure, is whether, in the interests of morality and in the interests of these young Mappilla women, it is necessary to ask them to go to the Andamans."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" May I remind my hon. Friend that these Mappilla women-folk are going to the Andamans to join their husbands? Is that a cause for demoralization?"

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir. And I am saying it firmly that in the conditions as they exist in the Andamans where the population is one woman to every six men, mostly convicts, it is extremely bad, and dangerous too, to send these women to live with their husbands who, after all, are not moral angels and were sent there because they committed offences of murder, dacoity and such heinous crimes."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" As a matter of personal explanation, Sir. Yesterday I pointed out to the House clearly that these Mappilla people would be asked to live in five villages which have been set apart to enable the prisoners to live with their families; and I also pointed out to the hon. House that the ordinary criminals here would have absolutely no access to these villages."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" My hon. Friend says that these Mappilla convicts with their families will be shut up in these villages. But though they live in these villages, is it not possible for them to come out, and is it not possible for the other convicts to get into these villages?"

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, some misrepresentations are being made and I should like to correct them at the earliest possible opportunity. If a prisoner who does not belong to these five villages wants to enter them, he must take a pass; and similarly, if any Mappilla prisoner living in these villages wants to go out of them, he must take a pass."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Does my Friend with his experience of this world think that it will be difficult for these Mappilla

[Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar] [25th August 1925]

prisoners to get passes for going out? Does he also think, with his experience of this world, that it will be difficult for prisoners living outside these villages to get passes for entering them? Does he also think . . . ”

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“ May I say . . . ”

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“ I do not like the interruptions of my hon. Friend. He will have his own opportunity of replying.

“ Does he also think that it would be morally healthy in the case of these men, particularly in the case of these young women, to come in contact with a large number of prisoners whose character certainly is not good? Does my hon. Friend think that it is in the interests or the duty of the Government to send these women to places with such a state of moral atmosphere? I think, Sir, from this point of view, the conduct of Government in this matter—I do not like to use very strong language—is reprehensible. I cannot find anything in support of the scheme which the Government are persisting in. Then my hon. Friend stated incidentally—of course he did not refer to it in detail—that Kunhiraman Nayar—I know Mr. Kunhiraman Nayar, Deputy Collector, he is my personal friend—visited the place; and in answer to a supplemental question, my Friend stated that he did not submit his report. If he has not submitted his report, is it not possible for the Government to call upon him and . . . ”

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“ I should like to say at once that he has submitted his report.”

* Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (Chairman):—“ May I point out to the hon. the Home Member that it is best to leave the hon. Member alone? He will have an opportunity to reply later.”

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“ The hon. Member can speak when his turn to reply comes, whereas we, the Members on this side, except the Mover of the resolution, can speak only once. After all, I am not going to detain him long.

“ What I was going to say was that Mr. Kunhiraman Nayar, when he was Deputy Collector, was sent on special duty to the Andamans. If he did not submit his report, that is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. I do not blame Mr. Kunhiraman Nayar at all; but I blame the Government. If, as a matter of fact, they did not ask him to submit his report and he has not submitted it, it is still possible for my hon. Friend to call upon him to submit his report and if and when he submits the report to see that it is placed on the table of the House. We shall then be in a very much better position than we are now to judge on the merits of the question, as between the Government on the one side and the Mappilla community of Malabar on the other. It seems to me, Sir, that there is no special virtue in the Government insisting upon sending these young Mappilla women to the Andamans, so full of the danger I have pointed out, and particularly in the face of strong opposition from the community concerned. As I said, I have no doubt whatever about the good intentions of the Government; but if the community concerned, i.e., the Mappillas of Malabar, as a body are against this measure, why should the Government persist in this doubtful object? To my mind it is not even doubtful, it is simply pernicious. But, even granting that it is not pernicious, I cannot understand why the

25th August 1925] [Mr M. Krishnan Nayar]

Government should persist in this course. I therefore heartily join my hon. Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib in this resolution and commend it to the hon. Member."

Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB :—"Mr. President, Sir, it may seem somewhat strange that when a measure of this sort is being pushed on by an hon. Member on the Treasury Bench who belongs to my community, one of the Mussalman members should propose, another Mussalman member should second and I, on behalf of the rest of the hon. Members of this House, should support a resolution which recommends to Government that the scheme of colonizing the Andaman islands with Mappillas and all propaganda in support of that scheme be immediately suspended and a committee of non-official members of this House including Mappilla representatives be appointed. I feel, Sir, that, as my hon. Friend the previous speaker pointed out, the motives of Government may be the best but I feel sure, at the same time, that my hon. Friend had nothing to do—I am speaking subject to correction—with this measure either in its inception or in its conception. My hon. Friend the mover of the resolution has done very wisely in quoting his authority from the Indian Jails Committee's report. I should think, after hearing what the Committee had to say about the Andaman islands, that there can be no two opinions on the matter of colonizing those islands. Objection must therefore be taken to a measure proposing to colonize the Andaman islands with any prisoners, much more so, Sir, when the case is of colonizing them with innocent and ignorant and poor women and their children.

"Of course, the hon. the Home Member told us that the conditions in the Andamans have changed since the Jails Committee report was published. Regarding the religious atmosphere, he urged that a mosque had been recently built and that many more mosques were likely to rise in the near future. But I ask, Sir, whether honestly any one can believe that with the erection of a mosque you can make a place less Andaman-like or more heavenly than it is. I believe that not only one mosque but any number of mosques that may be built there will not change the religious atmosphere of the locality. It must come not by the erection of mosques but by some other means.

"Again, as regards the climatic conditions, we have been told that there are good rains there, and that the weather is exactly like Malabar. Of course, the hon. the Home Member told us that his statements were made from hearsay and from other reports he has received. We know what sort of reports are sent to the Government, especially when the Government is on the eve of a certain measure, and what sort of value is to be attached to those reports. Here, we have hon. Members representing the Mappilla community, and I believe they are representing the entire Mappillas of this Presidency; they have come forward to say that the Andamans is not a fit place for the Mappillas, that it is certainly not in the interests of the Mappilla community to send their poor women and children to that hell on earth as it was called yesterday. Are we to take the report of the informers of the Government or are we to take the opinion of the accredited representatives of the people of this Presidency? For my part, I would rather go with the representatives of the people who come forward here and tell us that the Mappillas themselves do not like this measure in the least. Of course, their

[Mr. P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib] [25th August 1925]

statements are only very well confirmed and strengthened by the Jails Committee report. It is an authority which cannot be disputed or questioned; it is not at all open to any doubt or difference. Now, what does the resolution ask? It only requests the Government that another committee shall go and decide whether things have changed since the Jails Committee inspected the place and submitted its report. Is it too much to ask that a committee shall go and decide whether what a previous committee has said is wrong? I should rather think that it is a very modest request that has been made to the Government. I should rather think that the Government should not be precipitate in this matter. I do not see any reason why any committee should not be appointed, and I fail to see any urgency in the matter of deporting poor women and children. No doubt these women whose husbands have been convicted and sent to the Andamans are not like other free women, but they are in the position, I would call it, of widows, though not so in the real meaning of the term. So, do we not stand in the position of *loco parentis*, so far as these people are concerned? I put it to the House whether having regard to the report of the Jails Committee any one hon. Member of this House can say honestly that it is in the interests, in the moral, in the religious, in the pecuniary or in the social interest, of these poor Mappilla women and children to send them to the Andamans. I believe that if only they will consider this matter in an impartial light and give their vote honestly on this proposition I am sure that this resolution will be carried almost unanimously.

* Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (Chairman):—"I think the hon. Member is precluded from suggesting that the hon. Members in giving their votes act in any other manner than honestly."

Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB:—"On a matter of personal explanation, I do not wish to be understood in any such sense. I never meant it. If my words carried any such sense, I beg to apologise, Sir."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I hope, Mr. Chairman, that this modest resolution of Mr. Uppi Sahib would be carried unanimously. I call it modest because if I have had my choice in the matter I would have requested the Government to abandon this scheme altogether. My hon. Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib does not call upon the Government to abandon the scheme. He only suggests suspension and he suggests that a committee of non-official members of this House including the Mappilla representatives should go and investigate the question. It seems to me that if Government are not able to accept so reasonable a request like that they would lay themselves open to the imputation of motives. I do not know if I should agree with some of my hon. Friends who said that they recognized in the scheme the worst possible intention on the part of the Government. From a bad action it is not always easy to derive a good motive. I do not profess myself to be an expert in that art of alchemy. Now, what is the history of this thing, Sir? In the budget speech of 1923, I drew the attention of this Council and of the people of this Presidency to the secret propaganda that had been going on in Malabar to induce some of these women and children to go and join their husbands in the Andamans. Now, I ask if Government were playing the part of Providence to these people, which I understand is the position they have taken up to-day. Why should all this propaganda

25th August 1925] [Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi]

have been kept so secret? My hon. Friend, the Home Member, led us to believe, I think, that there was really no propaganda. Now, let us look at the fact. In 1923 a tahsildar went about quietly inducing a number of people, sometimes in the presence of other officials also who would be likely to recommend the scheme. There was no public announcement whatsoever, and there is not one even to-day that the Government desire to help the women, who want to join their husbands, to proceed to the Andamans. What publicity there has been is entirely through the work done in this Council and outside by hon. Members interested in this subject. Then, a gentleman is sent to the Andaman islands; official again, and we do not know whether he has submitted a report. My impression is that on a former occasion we were told that no report was prepared. Now, the hon. the Home Member seems to say that a report has been submitted, and that he would be very glad to publish it. But I would not be very glad to read it for this reason. Here we have an authoritative pronouncement of the Jails Committee, and yet we are asked to believe a miracle which no Government has been able to effect in any country in the world. What was eight years ago a hell is now to be regarded as an earthly paradise, an earthly paradise not for all but in the sense of the special interests of the Mappillas. It seems to me a statement which at its face value demands an amount of credulity that I am not willing to extend. If that Committee's report is to be set aside, it should be by a report of another committee, the *bona fides* of which cannot be open to question. Sir, I have the greatest possible respect for officials. But in this matter, in the light of the history that I have presented, we have a right to say that unless non-official evidence is taken it will not have a reassuring effect on public feeling either in Malabar or outside it. My own suspicion is that the whole scheme was engendered in a desire to weed out Malabar of these Mappillas. I may be right or I may be wrong. You are going to interfere with the freedom of poor women and children, and this interference is just the reason why one cannot attribute angelic motives on the part of the Government, as though the Government is dealing out matrimonial justice for the Mappillas. My hon. Friend assured us that reformatory influences have been already at work there. Since when? It is after the formation of the scheme that a few schools were opened and perhaps a mosque. If there is going to be something of reformatory influence, it may probably act on succeeding generations. So far as the present people are concerned, it will not be of much value. Then, officials are sent to interview the prisoners in the Alipuram jail. Everybody knows what amount of freedom of thought and freedom of action prisoners possess, and when big people with their prestige put them the question whether they would like to go to the Andamans, what will they say? They would prefer the convict settlement to the convict life in the jail. I think that even if consent has been given it has been given under circumstances of pressure and ignorance. It may not be a consent based on knowledge and it may not be a consent based on freedom. It is a consent that cannot be distinguished very much from coercion.

"Sir, what is the sentiment of the Mussalmans on this subject? After all, when people tell me that the Mappilla women and children are desirous of going to Andamans, I ask 'are the Mappilla women and children in Malabar a separate species of humanity from the other Mappillas and the other Mussalmans of the country?' And if all the Mussalmans and the

[Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi]

[25th August 1925]

free Mappillas are opposed to this depopulation of the people or migration, are we to imagine that they do not represent their feeling and that somehow they have cultivated a special, unique individuality and judgment? I think the whole subject is altogether too mysterious, and the only thing the Government should do is to drop the scheme altogether. I am for dropping even this committee for this reason. We are told that the Andamans is an earthly paradise to which the occupants of the Treasury Bench after their retirement would retire. (Laughter.) Now, if it was such an earthly paradise, we all know how colonization schemes are advertised and promoted all the world over. There will be descriptive pamphlets issued and broadcasted regarding the climatic conditions, the nature of the soil and the economic prospects and the social pleasures that you could have in the particular country and people are invited to go there. If that is the case, why not carry on your own propaganda among all the people of Malabar, among also the Hindus and the Cherumas many of whom are so very poor that they would like to take the opportunity? I cannot understand why you should carry on this kind of campaign only among a certain set of people who are not in a position to say whether they would fall in with such a scheme or not.

"Sir, since the Mussalman members have asked for a committee, I have nothing to say except to agree with it. If the Government will take us into confidence and send out a commission, and if this commission recommends the migration, then again too, the question of principle would arise whether such a settlement should be confined only to the Mappillas and their wives and children, or whether a regular colonization scheme to relieve unemployment in our own country should be adopted. I have no hesitation in supporting this motion, and I hope the House will unanimously agree to this and give the hon. the Home Member an opportunity of serving Mussalman interests."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :— "Mr. Chairman, Sir, when this motion was tabled, I least expected that there would be any opposition from the Government Benches; for, as has already been pointed out, the motion is worded in a very modest manner. All that my hon. Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib asks is that Government may suspend their action pending the appointment of a committee which will make enquiries in the matter and submit its report much to the satisfaction of both the Government and the public. Under the circumstances pointed out by the hon. Mover there ought to be no hesitation on the part of the Government to constitute such a committee. Instead of the non-official members proposing the appointment of a committee, the Government themselves, just to exonerate themselves from any probable charges that may be laid at their doors, ought to take it into their head to constitute a committee. Instead of doing that, when an hon. elected Member coming from the Mappilla region comes forward and proposes a committee, any argument against such a modest measure will only tend, as it has in a great measure tended, to create in the minds of the hon. Members present here yesterday and to-day a sort of suspicion that all that is told is not perhaps true. I do not for a moment suggest, Sir, that the statement made by the hon. the Home Member is not correct. It may be that he bases his opinion on such official records or other information as are available to him. If really the conditions of the Andamans are much better than those in Malabar and if the hon. Members of this House who go

25th August 1925]

[Mr. P. Anjaneyulu]

there give us that picture which is painted in water colours by the hon. the Home Member, many more of the Mappilla women and children would perhaps go there and we will be able to solve the question of unemployment in this Presidency. At this moment, Sir, I may assure the hon. the Government Member that if he does not consent to form the sort of committee that is proposed by my hon. Friend, some non-official members have volunteered themselves to go there; and the Government will not have a good face to show to us then. I trust that the Government even though they will not accept this resolution will not place obstacles in the way of non-official members who may be willing to go to the Andamans in the name of humanity, in the name of all that is sacred and in the name of women. Though these Mappillas may be prisoners or convicts, I take it that they are prisoners of war. In the name of the women, if any generous sentiments are engendered in the minds of hon. Members of this House, they will volunteer to go to these islands and report the exact conditions prevailing there. I trust that in that contingency the Government will place all possible facilities at their disposal to enable them to give a true, correct and unbiassed report. I heartily endorse the views put forward by the hon. Mover and I hope that the House will be unanimous in passing this resolution."

Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU:—“I wish to support, though not the whole of this proposition that has been placed before this House, at least a portion of it, the first portion. Enough has been said on the merits of the case that I am fully convinced that a case has been made out for a resolution similar to the one that has been placed before the House; and that there is necessity for a non-official committee being appointed for making an enquiry into the matter and submit a report seems to be quite clear. But I feel that the latter portion of the proposition should be deleted as it would probably be interpreted to mean a condemnation of the action that has been taken by the Government. The latter part of the proposition to which I refer is ‘and that till that Committee’s report is submitted no free women and children be kept in the Andamans’. That portion would mean that a case has been completely made out that these women ought not to be kept there. I think, Sir, the idea of the hon. Mover in asking for a committee of non-officials is to get a report as regards the conditions in the Andamans; and therefore if you would permit me, I would move for the deletion of the latter portion of the proposition and I hope that it will be accepted by the hon. the Home Member and other hon. Members.”

* Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (Chairman):—“I wish to know from the hon. the Home Member whether he has any objection to the amendment being taken up. The House has not the necessary notice which is required under the rules.”

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“I have no objection to the amendment being moved but I do not accept even the amended resolution.”

* Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (Chairman):—“May I know whether the hon. Mover Mr. Uppi Sahib accepts the amendment and if it is the pleasure of the House that the resolution as amended should be taken up now for consideration?”

[25th August 1925]

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ May I know what exactly the amendment is ? ”

* Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU :—“ I move for the deletion of the words ‘ and that till that Committee’s report is submitted no free women and children be kept in the Andamans ’.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ I second the resolution as amended by my hon. Friend Mr. Madanagopal Nayudu. According to the report read out to us by the hon. Member Mr. Uppi Sahib yesterday, the place is not healthy and the people are depressed. I do not know what changes have taken place within five years for the Government attempting to colonize the place without at least appointing another committee to report to us the present condition of the place. I support the resolution to appoint a committee, especially a committee having a non-official medical man on it. What is the use of appointing committees consisting of officials and some other non-officials who may not understand the healthy conditions of the place ? (Laughter.) I am not speaking for myself. (Laughter.) There is another hon. Member who is a medical man, Dr. U. Rama Rao. Therefore I request that the Government may be pleased to appoint a committee with a medical man on it to go into the question of the conditions of the place and report on it. If the Government think that the place should be colonized as they did in the case of Australia—and that is a very good scheme—I do not understand why they should insist upon the Mappilla women alone going there. Let the place be colonized by other people. Let the Government do propaganda work among other people either in Malabar or in some places here to colonize the place. Why should the Government insist upon Mappilla women alone being imported there ? Why should they take advantage of the miserable condition of the Mappillas ? So I second the amendment and I support the appointment of a committee. I request the Government and their representative, the Home Member, to be very sympathetic. If the Council does not know about him, I can say that he is an Indian of all Indians. I request the hon. the Home Member to accept the resolution as amended.”

Sriman SAMBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ Now that the amendment has been moved and seconded, I want to move another amendment, if you will allow me to do so.”

* Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (Chairman) :—“ There cannot be two amendments on the floor of the House. I shall put it to the House whether it desires the resolution as amended to be taken up now for consideration or whether the amendment be discussed separately. The amended resolution will be open to discussion by the House.”

The amendment was put and agreed to.

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ May I know if it is now permissible to move another amendment ? If so, I move ‘ that this Council recommends to the Government that the scheme of colonizing Andaman Islands with Mappillas and all propaganda in support of that scheme be immediately suspended and a committee of non-official members of this House including Mappilla representatives be sent to the Andamans to enquire and report into the conditions there and that till that Committee’s report is submitted no free women and children be sent to the Andamans ’.”

25th August 1925]

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" I second the amendment."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" While these women and children have already migrated to the Andamans, the object of my amendment is that there shall be no deportation of women until the Committee submits a report and makes specific recommendations."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The object is realized by the first part of the proposition."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" My object is that people should not be sent till the report is published. Otherwise the object of the resolution will be frustrated by simply appointing a committee to report upon the conditions and in the meantime migrating all possible people; the whole population may safely be deported before the Committee publishes its report."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I think that the object of Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti's amendment is already accomplished by the first part of this resolution. It says that this Council recommends to the Government that the scheme and all propaganda in support of that scheme be suspended. When the scheme is suspended no women can be sent to the settlements."

* Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (Chairman) :—" I agree with the hon. Member who spoke last that the words 'the scheme and all propaganda in support of that scheme be suspended' certainly include the idea that has been suggested by Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti and the amendment would be redundant."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" If the Government are of the same view as the Chairman, I would certainly be pleased to withdraw the amendment." (Laughter.)

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti's amendment was by leave withdrawn, and the discussion then proceeded on the resolution as amended by Mr. R. Madanagopal Nayudu.

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" I take it, Sir, that any remarks of mine need not be confined to the terms of the amendment and that it is open to me to refer to the subject matter of the resolution generally. I do not wish to transgress any of the rules of our debates and I therefore wish to have this point quite clear. I do not propose to refer to any of those matters of detail which my hon. Colleague the Home Member is perfectly competent to deal with. I should like to draw attention to two points which have been raised in the debate to-day regarding the action taken by the Government and to do so as a Member of the Government and as a party to that action. One hon. Member, I think, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi suggested that there was justification for assuming that the object and the policy of the Government underlying this scheme was to weed out from Malabar obviously for political reasons persons whose presence there they did not desire. Sir, I can assure the House that no such thought, no such intention, ever occurred to any Member of the Government and that we are entitled indignantly to repudiate the suggestion that our views have been dictated by political or other reasons of that kind, as much as hon. Members of this House would repudiate the suggestion that their opposition to our policy has been influenced by economic or similar considerations."

[25th August 1925]

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"What I did say was that it would be just as reasonable to draw that particular inference on the facts placed before the House as any other inference."

1 p.m.

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR:—"I do not think that what has just fallen from the hon. Member's lips has in any way lessened my justification for repudiating any such inference. The second point to which I may call the attention of the House and which also affects the question of the general policy of the Government is the proposition enunciated by the hon. Member for Malabar that this scheme stands condemned on the ground of morality."

"Now, Sir, I am prepared to say that it is an indisputable proposition that there is no more fruitful source of immorality than the separation of husband from wife. That proposition, I would add, is applicable to all races and to all communities which observe the sanctities of family life. On what ground then does the hon. Member impute immorality to our scheme? Does he suggest that it is immoral to devise a scheme of which one result will be to bring husbands and wives together again? I am still more astonished to find that our action is characterized as reprehensible. Reprehensible was the term used on grounds of morality that proceeded from a Hindu Member of this House. I have always understood that the ideal which his community has held up from generation to generation is that wives should cling to their husbands, no matter what the conditions or perils to which this may subject them. I would only say that if the hon. Member for Malabar is convinced of the validity of his argument, he ought to ask his co-religionists to wipe the Ramayana out of their literature. If he is right, then Sita ought to have given a tender farewell to Rama at the Gates of Ayodya and refused to follow him to the Dandakaranya on the ground that the climatic conditions were unsuitable and that there might be influences inimical to her virtue. I trust that we shall hear no further attacks on the policy of the Government, at any rate on the score of its morality."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I just want to say a few words in support of the proposition and my first justification is that I have had something to do with the Mappilla prisoners in the Coimbatore jail. I raised the question of the release of these Mappilla prisoners in this House and then I was advised by the then Home Member to talk to these people as to whether they were willing to go under the conditions in which the other people were taken to the Andamans. I talked to one or two of them, and they said if any chance was given to them they would go to any place except the Andamans. The one question I have been asked was, 'supposing we go to the Andamans, supposing we take our wives and children under the conditions depicted to us, and we find that the state of things there is unsatisfactory, will we be allowed to come back?' I want the hon. the Home Member to give an answer to it. Supposing a large number of Mappilla women and children who are induced to go to the Andamans realize that on moral, economic or other reasons their stay there is not conducive to all that is good, will the hon. the Home Member permit them to come back, and if so, under what conditions?"

"So far as the question of morality is concerned, the hon. the Finance Member has spoken with great feeling, and when he speaks he is always full of information, even up to the stories of Ramayana. Supposing it is good to put an end to the compulsory separation of the wife from the husband, is that good thing to be done only under one condition? Is that to

25th August 1925] [Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar]

be achieved only by deporting these women and children to a place which may be like falling from the frying pan into the burning fire. The Mappilla prisoners, so far as I have been able to understand, have been willing to go to any place except Malabar. There are twelve State prisoners of Malabar in the Coimbatore jail. They have not been tried, they have not been convicted, but simply because rebellion broke out in Malabar and somebody somewhere for some reason said something against them they have been deported, and what is the most unfortunate thing is while people guilty of offence and convicted for short terms have been sent back to their homes, these people are rotting in jails in spite of the fact that they have been asking for permission not to go to Malabar but to any other place in India and to be permitted to live with their wives and children. But Government have been, for several reasons of their own, refusing their request excepting in one case where owing to old age or sickness they have permitted a particular prisoner to live in Bangalore. I ask the Finance and the Home Members if it is not equally moral to permit these Mappilla prisoners in the Andamans to go and live in any other place outside Malabar under any conditions whatsoever. Recently, the Government have formed a committee in every jail—what they call the advisory committee—for releasing long-term prisoners under conditions, and the experience so far as Government have been able to achieve is that release of long-term prisoners before their term expires under conditions is bound to serve a very good purpose. Supposing that the conditions are beyond doubt very good, supposing these Mappillas should under no circumstances be permitted to go to Malabar, should not an opportunity be given to them to lead a moral life with their wives and children in any other place? I understand that a large number of people in the Andamans itself would be very willing to do this. Therefore, we are equally anxious with the Finance Member to unite the wives with their husbands. It certainly does not follow nor do we agree with him that the only possible way to do this is to send these people to the Andamans. After all, what is asked for now is to see whether the Government view is right. No one on the front bench can say from personal knowledge that the Andamans is very good. I have no objection to all of them being members of the committee. I only intend that their experience should be something more than merely visiting the jails. The Government Order seems to be based on the experience and report of a deputy collector who seems to have said that this scheme is very good. The only request that we on behalf of the non-official Members of this Council would make is that a small committee from various parts of the House, presided over by the Home Member himself, if he has no objection, may go and inspect the conditions there and convince us that this scheme is an ideal one.

“This is only a modest request. We may all be fools as may probably be depicted by some one on the front bench and wisdom may be reserved for Government benches. The opinion of the House is very clear on this matter and I therefore need not appeal to the House. I have no doubt that this proposition will be carried by a large majority. My appeal is to the hon. the Home Member not to throw it into the waste paper basket. We know he is very sympathetic excepting in affairs concerned with the Government. This is the first proposition in which we have been seriously objecting to the Government scheme. So, I appeal to him to be really sympathetic and to accept this

[Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [25th August 1925]

subject of his and to appoint a committee the members of which may be nominated by him. We are prepared to have any committee of his liking—and we are prepared to be convinced by the hon. Members on the other side as to the soundness of the scheme—and we wish him to be the chairman of that committee.”

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ At the last session I put a number of queries in connexion with the deportation of these Mappillas to the Andamans, and I also sent a number of queries which might have been answered by this day but which have not been answered so far. I have not got the questions here but the substance of it is: Why have Government selected the Andamans rather than any other place for sending these prisoners to? We have got before us the report of a committee that the place is unsatisfactory and is open to objection on various other grounds. Have Government given these prisoners any other choice of place? Could they not settle in a colony in some part of India? There are many places in India healthier than Malabar. I do not think that Malabar is an unhealthy place; it is more or less of the same climate as Kanara. Excepting in hilly regions, which are malarious, the rest of the country is a very healthy country. As for that matter, Madras is more malarious than most parts of Kanara or Malabar.

“ Then I asked the question as to who this extraordinary officer was who was sent to the Andamans to investigate, why was he sent, and under whose authority, under what circumstances, and who was the deputy collector who reported on the conditions in the Andamans? Then I asked the question: where are the reports and why did not the Government publish them? One reply was that there were no reports. We should make them record their observations and present them in the form of reports. One great trouble is that we, Members of this Council, are not taken into the confidence of Government. The reports are not placed before us and the *ipse dixit* of Government Members are thrust upon us and we have to bow to them.

1-15 p.m. “ Sir, whether we are Hindus, or Christians or Muhammadans, surely we are entitled to be taken into confidence as it is a matter of serious importance to a certain class of Indians. Sir, a certain local paper found fault with me for having taken any interest at all in the cause of the Muhammadans. (Laughter.) Some people said ‘Why should an Indian Christian worry himself with congregational worship in the jail for Mappillas’ and others said so many other things. My answer to them all was this: ‘It is because I am a Christian and because I am an Indian I have to take interest in their welfare (‘Hear, hear’ and cheers). Then, Sir, there are so many puzzles in this case. (Laughter.) Under what authority Government have proposed to spend thousands of rupees for converting a most insanitary place into a sanitary place? For whose benefit, *cui bono*, and for what purpose and under what authority are they spending large sums of money? I do not know if any provision was made in the budget for this purpose. Nor do I know of any supplementary grant moved for the purpose in this House. I suppose money should be spent under some authority. Of course, the hon. the Finance Member is almighty in that respect. (Laughter.) Sir, the hon. the Finance Member has been able to find money to be spent on an island. Sir, I appeal to you and I appeal to this House to say whether the almighty Finance Member should be allowed to spend money on a place condemned as insanitary by a Committee appointed by the Government of

25th August 1925]

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

India and that for what purpose and for whose benefit he only knows. Many other similar questions will occur to us if only the hon. the Home Member will take us into his confidence."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member said that there was no intention to rid Malabar of the Mappillas. That may be the intention, Sir, but who can claim credit for this scheme? Is it a scheme which the Government framed of their own accord or is the scheme the result of a desire on the part of the Mappilla prisoners themselves and the Government considered the question and approved it? Is the originality for it to be traced to any Member of Government or to the Government collectively. I think it cannot be said for a moment that we ought not to go into the intentions of the Government in evolving this scheme. I do not think it can be said for a moment that the poor Mappilla evolved this scheme, that it is he who put it forward saying that he would prefer to live with his family in the Andamans and that he requested the Government to send his wife and children to the Andamans. I believe, Sir, the originality for this scheme must be traced to the Government. When once the originality is traced, explanations should be readily forthcoming as to the reasons which served as an inducement for them to put forward this scheme. If I remember right, this scheme might have entered the minds of the Government long before the hon. the Finance Member joined the Treasury Bench and perhaps he has not used his knowledge of the Ramayana to induce the Government to see that every Indian even though he may be a Mappilla likes that his wife should take the part of Sita. I believe he has not read the whole of Ramayana."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" Am I to understand that the hon. Member has read the whole of Ramayana? (Laughter)." ALONE TRS

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Not only myself, but every Hindu is expected to read the whole of Ramayana. The only reason why I said that the hon. the Finance Member has not read the whole of Ramayana is that he has not completely quoted the story of Sita. It is true that every Indian wife wants to follow her husband. But does the hon. the Finance Member know what dangers Sita had to undergo by following her husband into Deccan? Perhaps he is aware that she was kidnapped by the Asura king."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" I am aware of it."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I am glad that he is aware of it. Sir, it is said that there are Asuras in the Andamans and that there is moral danger prevailing. Nobody has doubted the moral character of the women to be taken there. The real apprehension of my Mappilla friends is that the environment there is just the same as that prevailed in Deccan when Rama went there. Therefore I do not think my hon. Friend the Finance Member will carry the whole analogy of Rama and Sita into the consideration of this question. What my Mappilla friends say is that the environment in the Andamans is not good. You have matured a scheme in order to take away the Mappilla women to make the Mappillas settle down there with their wives and children. Thereby you deplete Malabar and take the Mappillas to a new environment which is not congenial to them. I am glad that this time the Hindu representatives of Malabar agree with the Mappilla representatives that the Mappilla women shall not be sent to the Andamans."

[Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju] [25th August 1925]

I believe both sections do represent the general view of the district and therefore I do not think the Government will be justified in persisting in their policy."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Sir, I wish to tell you that Mr. Sami Venkatachallam Chetty moved and I seconded an amendment to this resolution. I want to know what has become of it."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"Sir, may I point out that the Chairman (Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar) in your absence ruled that the amendment suggested by Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar was redundant and his ruling was implicitly accepted by the House?"

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I wish to say just a few words in support of this resolution. The whole discussion which has taken place must have shown to all that this question has several difficult problems surrounding it awaiting solution and the only way in which they can be solved is by the appointment of a committee to solve those knotty problems. I must state, Sir, that if a committee is to be appointed, as I hope it will be, the terms of reference to the committee must be wider than what has been contemplated in the course of the discussion. There is so much to be said in favour of the view that arrangements must be made for willing wives to join their husbands. The point in dispute has been whether these wives are really willing to go to the Andamans and join their husbands or not, whether it is not due to the propaganda which has been carried on and whether this scheme has been formulated at the request of these people.

"Now, Sir, in considering it, as has been pointed out by the hon. Member from Coimbatore, it is a matter for consideration whether arrangements cannot be made for such of those who have already settled in the Andamans to be brought here subject to certain conditions to enable them to join their wives and children. If once the moral principles which have been so fully elucidated by the hon. the Member for Finance are really to be put into operation and if the Government are really earnest in their desire to see that willing wives ought to be in a position to join their husbands, it was open to them to consider whether such of these Mappillas who are now settled in the Andamans cannot be brought back here under certain conditions so as to enable them to live with their wives and children. Aspects of the question such as these can only be considered by a committee.

"Sir, the weakest point in the case of the Government is this. The Jail Committee reported in no unmistakable manner about the unsuitability of continuing the settlement. Before the Government reconsidered their decision and before they embarked upon this definite policy, justice would demand that they should have made a more thorough enquiry before launching upon this policy. They have not appointed any committee to consider the question and even if they have made other enquiries, the results of those enquiries have not been placed before the public for the benefit of all those affected by it. Sir, whatever justification the Government may have for acting in contravention of the Jail Committee's recommendations, they would have done much better, and it would have been wiser, to take the public into their confidence before they embarked upon this new policy. Therefore I think, Sir, the hon. the Home Member will see that the Government did act in a rather precipitate manner in changing the policy recommended by the Jail Committee. Even now it is not too late for him to

25th August 1925] [Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu]

correct any mistakes which might have crept in in the course of working out the scheme. The only way in which it can be done is by appointing a committee consisting of such persons as would be useful for the purpose of determining such proposals in order to see how these matters ought to be settled.

"Then, there is a large number of persons who are objecting to these Mappilla women being sent there in view of the large male population in the Andamans. It is quite necessary to see whether the precautions taken are quite sufficient for the purpose of ensuring a proper moral atmosphere. While every one is anxious that some arrangement should be made for the purpose of making these wives live with their husbands, nobody knows what the arrangements already made are. Whatever view the hon. the Home Member might have taken in the beginning, in view of the discussion which has taken place so far, I hope he will reconsider his view instead of persisting in it and see the desirability of appointing a committee to examine the whole question."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After lunch (2-30 p.m.).

* Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—Mr. President, Sir, if you allow me to speak, I shall just say a few words. The hon. the Finance Member strongly rebutted the argument that the Mappillas were allowed to colonize the Andamans with the object of their being depopulated from Malabar. If it is true, how is it that the island is not open to all people? Apart from that, there is a rumour that some European firm from Calcutta or somewhere want to open a sugarcane farm in the islands; they do not find the labour necessary there and therefore they want these convicts to go and work in those plantations. I want to know whether Government are going to have another Kenya colony in the Andamans. With regard to the moral, physical, and social conditions of the Andamans, the Jail Committee have said that the islands are unfit for habitation for any civilized human being. On the other hand, the hon. the Home Member tried to rebut the statement by the fact that he met some of the convicts who told him that they were satisfied with the conditions in the island. What we understand is that these convicts are paid to entice free people to the Andamans. Under the circumstances, I ask whether it is not necessary that we should have some statement from the people who have voluntarily gone to the islands. Again, the hon. the Home Member stated that there is some sort of damp atmosphere in the island which makes the climate of that island similar to the climate of Malabar. But the dampness of the atmosphere in Malabar does not breed mosquitos while the dampness of the weather in the Andamans breeds mosquitos as big as fleas. The hon. the Home Member stated that two or three schools have been opened and one or two mosques have been erected on the island. But why should such special sympathy be poured on the Mappillas; why should you not allow the other people also, the Hindus, for example, to go there and build their temples and live there? Does not this partiality towards the Mappillas show that there is some ulterior object which is behind this colonization. We cannot but view this with some suspicion. Therefore, Sir, I strongly support the motion that has been brought forward by the hon. the Mover of the resolution."

[25th August 1925]

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I wish to oppose the motion; because we find all sorts of motives attributed to the Government for their scheme of colonization. Certainly, Sir, I am not a supporter of the Government; but I do not like that a simple, innocent and humane scheme like this in an exceptional set of circumstances should be open to such construction. My own opinion is that Government have gone out of their way to provide a concession for people who have been found guilty and sentenced to transportation to the Andamans. Instead of welcoming such a humane proposal of the Government by which the unfortunate Mappillas could have the company of their women and children, I do not see why such a hue and cry should be raised. What is it that the Government have done? Have they coerced these women and children to go to the Andamans? Did the ladies go with their consent or against their will? If the latter, I can understand the opposition to the measure. I understand that the ladies are willing to go and have expressed their willingness to go. It is not against their will that they are asked to go. Government are showing exceptional sympathy to these people. Is there any other case in India or outside where convicts are given this exceptional treatment? Instead of welcoming it, I am sorry my hon. Friend Mr. Ayyangar from Coimbatore should have proposed such a measure to the unfortunate convicts in the Coimbatore Jail.”

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I did not propose any measure to the convicts. The hon. the Home Member asked me to consult them and I consulted them.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“ When I hear all sorts of motives attributed to Government for this innocent and humane measure, and when I see the Government attacked on all sides, and when I see that the motion goes against the wishes of the ladies who have voluntarily gone there, I have to oppose the motion. I therefore oppose the motion on these two grounds.”

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I shall first answer the hon. Member from Cuddapah. I have said that it is necessary to look into the Jail Committee's Report to understand the real conditions in the Andamans. This scheme may appear to be innocent. I have tried my best to educate the hon. Members of this House and tell them something about the Andamans. I am sorry that the hon. Member from Cuddapah did not care to understand me. The Islands have been condemned in the most forcible language by such an eminent committee appointed by the Government of India under the presidentship of an ex-Governor of this Presidency. It was an impartial committee; it had no motives in condemning that island as a penal settlement and in condemning any attempt on the part of the Government to colonize it. I am at a loss to understand how the hon. Member for Cuddapah came to understand that this is a very humane endeavour on the part of the Government. As regards the willingness on the part of the women to go there, let me tell him once more that the officials of the Government work there secretly. A special officer was appointed to go about doing propaganda work among the people. Twenty-five convicts were taken from the Andamans and they were taken round like tigers and other wild beasts in a circus. They were made to say that the Andamans were a good place for colonization. This was the propaganda that

25th August 1925]

[Mr. K. Uppi Sahib]

Government were doing. I say, Sir, these innocent and ignorant women had been decoyed. If Government had any good motive, they should have done it openly and they should be prepared to allow any one who wishes to go and settle there. They have not done that. As regards the willingness, let me tell the hon. Member that soon after this vigorous propaganda began, I wrote a summary of the report of the Jail Committee and published it in the local papers. As a result of it, out of 500 and odd people who were reported to be willing to go to the islands, only about 200 and odd people actually went, and the other 300 and odd refused to go. This really shows that there is no willingness. The thing happens out of mere force, latent force which nobody knows how it is exercised. The Police officials go from house to house and induce the Mappillas to go to the islands. Once, some Mappillas were distributing some pamphlets in Ernad describing the real conditions of the Andamans. The Police officials forcibly took away those pamphlets from the people. Why is this? Is this not propaganda? Everything is done secretly. The Mappillas of those parts where the scheme was first promulgated were very much afraid of the Government officials. The Police can do anything. There is no willingness on the part of the women. The hon. Member is an educated gentleman; he is a person of good knowledge. Suppose two men agree between themselves to murder one of them, will it be right to say that the murderer should not be punished simply because the other man has consented to be murdered? The Andamans is a condemned place; it is a hell on earth; it is a plague spot on earth. And to such a place these women and children have been decoyed. The hon. the Home Member said yesterday that he had seen these twenty-five people who came from the Andamans. I must say they are only the decoyed ducks. It is not very difficult to make these 25 persons say what the police want them to say, viz., that the islands are a good place to live in. They are in custody with bayonets at their back and bayonets in front, with lathies at their back and lathies in front, and is it not possible for the Government officials to make them say that the Andamans are really a happy place? Does the hon. the Home Member believe that these people are honest and that they would not tell lies? I ask him this question and let him answer. If they are honest, if the hon. Member thinks that they are honest, then they say they are innocent. Why not let them free. I ask, Sir, if you believe that they are honest and innocent, why should you keep these very people in custody and why should they not be released at once?

"The hon. the Finance Member told us something about Rama and Sita.

2-45 p.m. He quoted that as an analogy. I must say that if these people are Ramas certainly they cannot be imprisoned. Rama was one of the greatest of men. If Sita's comparison is made, then all the Mappilla women cannot be in the Andamans because there are thousands of Ravana there while there was only one in Ceylon. I am sorry there is no Hanuman in the Andamans to help Rama."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"I have got great objection to Rama being dragged in this way."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"My hon. Friend Mr. Narasimhacharlu did not protest against it when Mr. Moir referred to it."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"Any good thing may be said, but nothing in disparagement should be said against that great Avatar."

[25th August 1925]

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"I had the least idea, when I referred to Rama, of offending the sentiments of the Hindus."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"I do not know why my hon. Friend from Cuddapah took objection to what I said. I never said anything in disparagement of Rama. The hon. the Home Member said it was immoral not to allow their wives and children to go to their husbands. Does that theory apply only to prisoners in the Andamans? Why not the same theory be applied to prisoners in Alipuram Jail? Then I have to ask, what about other deportees?"

"Sir, I have come to the end of my speech. I thank all my hon. Colleagues who gave me their hearty support for this resolution. In conclusion, I appeal to the hon. House to pass this resolution unanimously and I hope the hon. the Home Member, for whose appointment there was an outcry from all Muhammadans, will accept this resolution and will speedily give effect to it."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"It is not my intention to cover the same ground which I traversed yesterday evening. My hon. Friend Mr. C. R. Reddi said that the reports which the Government officials have submitted could not be taken as the basis for proceeding with our schemes. Hon. Members should know that the report given by officials must be correct. Otherwise, if they were to mislead the Government and then we find that the Andamans are not as described by them, these officials would be dealt with. Therefore there is no motive in these officials drafting such a report."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"Which of the two reports is correct?"

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"Is it suggested that the report of the non-officials is incorrect?"

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I never said anything about the non-official report. We have got the report of the Jails Committee which said some years ago that the place was malarial. I suppose that most of the members of this House are aware that several Municipal Councils in the discharge of their proper duties bring out schemes for eradicating malaria from their locality. It is not very difficult to convert a place which is malarial to-day to become non-malarial to-morrow."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not know if such good results have been achieved in the Andamans."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Hon. Members of this House are aware that there was a controversy with regard to the Tondiarpet sewage farm in this city some years back. There were two schools of thought. One was that this sewage farm was the cause of malaria in that place and the other was that it was not. Afterwards anti-malarial steps were taken and that place is absolutely free from malaria now."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"Were any such anti-malarial measures taken?"

25th August 1925]

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Must have been taken.

"Then, Sir, Major Barker, till recently the Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair, has reported 'that the Indian Jails Committee's adverse reports about the conditions of the Andamans however justifiable on the records of the past are hardly applicable to the present conditions.' This is what he says :— 'The climate of the Andamans is exactly like Malabar. The annual rainfall is 115 inches as compared with Malabar's 117 inches. The mean temperature of each is 70 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Both have a steady sea breeze throughout the south-west monsoon with heavy rain and lighter and drier breeze from the south-west in December and January. From the point of view of Mappilla emigration the climate is ideal.' Major Barker has also pointed out 'that as a result of measures taken for the reclamation to swamps and for the provision of additional medical facilities there has been remarkable improvement in the sick rates under malaria and other diseases'

"Sir, some of my friends advanced the argument that this scheme had been brought forward for the purpose of weeding the Mappillas out of Malabar. The maximum number of families that we can take to the Andamans is 800. Even supposing that each prisoner takes with him a family of five persons it will come to only 4,000 Mappillas. The population of Malabar is 964,000 roughly. Still we have got a population of 960,000 people left in Malabar."

Mr. T. M. MOIDU SAHIB :—"Is it only the wives of the convicts that are taken to the Andamans?"

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Wives and immediate relatives dependent upon the prisoners."

"Therefore, Sir, there is absolutely no truth or force in the argument that by taking 4,000 people to the Andamans we are going to weed the Mappillas out of Malabar."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"Are you not doing propaganda work asking people to migrate to the Andamans?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"We are not doing any propaganda work. We only tell them that if they go there they can lead a free life and we will give them all the facilities."

"My Friend, Mr. Uppi Sahib, raised the point that these Mappilla women and children when they go to the Andamans would fall a victim to missionary influences and would be converted to the Christian faith. I say when these women and children are living in poverty and wretchedness here they are liable to conversion more than they would be in the Andamans where they will be living with their husbands. Therefore that argument falls to the ground. Some one said that these women would become immoral if they went to the Andamans. I cannot understand how the women who go to join their husbands will become immoral. In fact the chances of their becoming immoral are greater here than there."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Supposing unfortunately a Mappilla prisoner dies, what is to become of the members of his family?"

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"They will be sent back."

[Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib]

[25th August 1925]

"My Friend, Mr. C. R. Reddi, said that I have an opportunity now to serve Islam. I know that I would be serving the best interests of Islam by supporting this scheme. I would ask the hon. House to take a reasonable and logical view of the whole question. We have started this experiment and we are now going on with it. Let us wait for some time. Let us wait for a year and then consider the question of abandoning the scheme."

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—"Why do the Government want to make an experiment with human lives?"

The amended motion was then put to the House and carried.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION FOR PUPILS WHO HAVE FINISHED
THE THIRD FORM COURSE.

* Mr. L. C. GURUSWAMI :—"As the hon. the Minister for Education told me that a committee would sit to investigate all the matters referred to in my resolution, I do not move my resolution which reads as follows :—

'That this Council recommends to the Government that a public examination be instituted for pupils who have completed at least the third form course in a recognized school.'

ELLORE AS HEADQUARTERS OF WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT

3 p.m. Mr. M. Gangaraju then moved the following resolution in a Telugu speech :—

'That this Council recommends to the Government that Ellore be made the district headquarters of the West Godavari district.'

3-15 p.m. Mr. N. Devendrudu seconded the resolution in a Telugu speech.

Mr. P. SAGARAM :—"Mr. President, Sir, I have to oppose the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Gangaraju. In doing so, I submit, Sir, that the desire for Ellore to be made the headquarters seems to be expressed by a few people of that locality. There are nearly five taluks in the district—Bhimavaram, Tanuku, Narasapur, Ellore and Kovvur. These are the taluks of the new district. Nidadavole is just in the centre of the district, and the convenience of the people will be better served by making Nidadavole as headquarters than Ellore. Ellore is connected with Nidadavole both by train and by canal; so also Narasapur. And Tanuku is also connected with Nidadavole by a broad canal. Kovvur is just near Nidadavole. Moreover, I think the Government are awaiting the report of the District Collector. Until it is received I think it is not desirable to fix the headquarters of the district. It is not a light thing to settle the headquarters of the district. It requires deep consideration and so I beg to submit that proper consideration may be given to the matter and that a decision on the question may be postponed to some other date."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I second the motion of Mr. Sagaram, Sir, that this resolution may be postponed to a future date."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"He did not formally make any motion to that effect. Does he wish to make a motion that this resolution be postponed to some other date or *sine die*?"